

Claims:

What we claim is:

1. A method of propagating an avian reovirus that can be isolated from poultry and grow to suitable titer on Vero cells, without prior adaptation, comprising the steps of:
 - a. inoculating a Vero cell with the avian reovirus that can be isolated from poultry and grow to suitable titer on Vero cells, without prior adaptation;
 - b. allowing the avian reovirus to multiply; and,
 - c. harvesting the avian reovirus.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the avian reovirus is selected from the group consisting of ERS 1037, ERS 060E, and ERS 074.
3. The method of Claim 3 wherein the avian reovirus grows to a titer of at least about 3.0 TCID₅₀/ml.
4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the titer is at least about 4.0 TCID₅₀/ml.
5. The method of Claim 3 wherein the titer is at least about 5.1 TCID₅₀/ml.
6. The method of Claim 3 wherein the titer is at least about 5.3 TCID₅₀/ml.
7. The method of Claim 1 wherein wherein the reovirus is further characterized by the absence of reactivity in an IFT with Moabs INT 13-06, INT 14-11, and 15-01 INT (samples of which are deposited at the ECACC under accession nos. 99011472, 99011473, and 9901474).
8. The method of Claim 1 or 7 wherein the reovirus is characterized by reactivity in an immuno-fluorescence-technique (IFT) with a polyclonal antiserum raised against a reovirus selected from the group consisting of strain S1133; strain

2408; strain 1733; strain 2177; strain ERS; strain ERS 060E; strain ERS 074; and strain 1037.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of using the reovirus with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent in an immunogenic composition and/or vaccine.
10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the reovirus is either live, attenuated or killed.
11. The method of Claim 9 wherein the immunogenic composition and/or vaccine further comprises at least one of Marek's Disease Virus, Infectious Bursal Disease Virus, Newcastle Disease Virus, Infectious Bronchitis Virus, Avian Encephalomyelitis Virus, Fowl Pox Virus, and Chicken Anemia Agent.
12. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of administering the immunogenic composition and/or vaccine.
13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the reovirus is naturally non-pathogenic.
14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the reovirus is isolated from the neurological system.
15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the neurological system consists of brain, spinal chord, and/or other structures associated with the neurological system.
16. The method of Claim 14 wherein the reovirus is isolated from a chicken.
17. A novel class of reovirus that can grow to suitable titer on Vero cells, without prior adaptation, said reovirus being characterized in that reactivity in an immuno-fluorescence-technique (IFT) with a polyclonal antiserum raised against a reovirus selected from the group consisting of strain S1133; strain 2408; strain 1733; strain 2177; strain ERS; strain ERS 060E; strain ERS 074;

and strain 1037, and, by the absence of reactivity in an IFT with Moabs INT 13-06, INT 14-11, and 15-01 INT (samples of which are deposited at the ECACC under accession nos. 99011472, 99011473, and 9901474).

18. The novel class of Claim 17 wherein the reovirus is isolated from a chicken.
19. The novel class of Claim 17 wherein the reovirus is selected from the group consisting of ERS 1037, ERS 060E, and ERS 074.
20. The novel class of Claim 17 wherein the reovirus grows to a titer of at least about 3.0 TCID₅₀/ml.